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For additional news, information and much, much, more about your government, visit the ASG Website at <http://www.american-samoa.gov>

Tapuitema

...ina ia manino le folauga.

Official American Samoa Government Weekly Newsletter

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Samoan professionals needed in biomedical services; DOE-Land Grant-NIH Program

Six local high school students and graduates presented the results of their summer science research projects in the conference room of the ASCC's Community & Natural Resources (CNR) / Land Grant on July 30th.

The research is part of the U.S. National Institutes of Health's Short Term

Education Program for Underrepresented Persons, or "STEP-UP" program.

The six local participants are Pilivesburg Salanoa, Talimeli Taufete'e, Lefagaoalii Amosa, Mata'uitafa Faiai, IoanaVala, and Grape Tuifatu.

Land Grant Dean and Director Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Mageo Aga said there is a

great need for more Samoan professionals in the biomedical

sciences. He noted the opportunities provided by the STEP-UP program, especially with the establishment of the ASCC – STEP-UP molecular biology training facility at Land Grant.

(Continued on page 2)

Fagasa's \$1.5 million Village Road and Shoreline Protection Project is dedicated

Governor Togiola Tulafono and his administration saw the completion of yet another one of their many road projects on Friday, August 5, when the Fagasa Village Road and Shoreline Protection Project was dedicated.

The new road includes two 9-ft. wide bi-directional lanes, a new sidewalk, and a rock revetment that was constructed with a retaining wall adjacent to it. The project also included drainage work.

The contract total

amounted to \$1,527,229.45 and the work was carried out by RM Construction. The project was funded by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Gov. Togiola said the project is "a fulfillment of yet another part of a commitment this administration has made to the people of American Samoa to provide adequate shore protection to prevent roads from eroding and undermining by high wave actions."

He extended his sincerest appreciation to the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration "for the positive support provided in attempt to secure funds specifically for the construction of this shoreline protection that has made this project possible."

First Lady MaryAnn Tulafono was given the honors to cut the ribbon to officially open the new road.

Tula Road Project dedicated

The Tula Village Road Project was dedicated on Tuesday, August 2, 2011.

The new road is approximately 1,750 linear feet and was fully funded by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. The total contract amount was \$540,337.12.

"I am pleased to dedicate this road for Tula Village as part of a pro-

gram of projects that will meet the needs of the traveling public," said Gov. Togiola Tulafono. "The residents of the island of Tutuila have had to endure hardship and hazards that are associated with an inadequate road system that is under-designed to meet the growing needs of the population."

Gov. Togiola thanked the US Department of Transportation for their solid financial support for the

important series of projects that enhances both safety and economic development in the Territory.

The Governor also commended the Department of Public Works Director Taeaotui Punafo Tilei and his hardworking staff on all the work they have accomplished.

The contractor of the project was Tony's Construction.

Samoan professionals needed...*(continued from page 1)*

Dr. Lawrence Agodoa, Director of the Office of Minority Health Research Coordination of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Disease said the program's goal is to reduce health disparities in underserved parts of the country such as American Samoa, and one of the ways to do this, is to increase the number of Samoans and other underrepresented groups in the

biomedical sciences, which is STEP-UP's aim.

Dr. George Hui, Director of STEP-UP's Pacific Programs and Professor at the John A. Burns School of Medicine at the University of Hawaii announced the names of the two students who will represent American Samoa at the STEP-UP High School Scientific Session and Summer Research Presentations at the NIH in

Bethesda, Maryland. They are, Lefagaoalii Amosa and Talimeli Taufete'e, who will present their research results at a meeting set for August 10-14.

More information about the STEP-UP program can be found at <http://stepup.niddk.nih.gov>.

Applications for next year's program will be posted at the site during the school year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

To all alcoholic beverage licensees

Be advised that the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Ta'ita'itama Prevent Underage Drinking Initiative and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board

will be conducting compliance check activities in your area beginning December 2010 and continuing through December 2011.

Please remember that selling alcoholic beverages to a person under 21 years old is illegal per American Samoa Code, Title 27, Chapter 05; Section 27.0531:

"No licensee may sell any alcoholic beverage to any person under 21."

American Samoa is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of its people. Our priority issue is to combat and prevent underage drinking and the problems that arise from this illegal activity.

For additional information, feel free to contact the
Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws - EUDL Program
at 633-1582

BOH to Lions Park One Way only: 6:30am – 5pm ‘til Aug 20th

This is a public awareness notice on behalf of McConnell Dowell concerning the Airport Road Drainage Project for Department of Public Works.

Effective immediately The Bank of Hawaii Road in Tafuna is now one-way only. Public vehicles can pass freely from Bank of Hawaii junction towards Lions Park / Industrial Road and then turn left or right.

There is no access from Industrial Road / Lions Park junction towards Bank of Hawaii Road.

This traffic control plan has been approved by all relevant government authorities and is for the safety of the public as well as McConnell Dowell's workers.

This traffic control measure will be in place from 6:30AM until 5pm daily except Sunday until August 20th.

Please approach this area slowly, with caution and observe all traffic control measures.

McConnell Dowell apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

Thank you from McConnell Dowell for helping us improve our road and drainage infrastructure safely

PUBLIC NOTICE

Request for information about the former Matafao School
(located southwest of the entrance to Pago Pago Harbor on the
Island of Tutuila, American Samoa)

Recently, the US Army Corps of Engineers completed a Site Inspection at the former **Matafao School**. **This site was used by the United States Navy for offshore debris disposal and landfill activities from 1900 through 1964.**

The former **Matafao School** is one of many former military installation throughout the United States that will be reviewed under the Department of Defense's Munitions Response Site Prioritization Protocol. This protocol is used to assess sites that may have unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions or munitions constituents, and to assign priorities for any additional investigation or munitions removal that may be required.

The evaluation criteria including types of munitions that may be present, ease of access to the site and number of people living near the site, are available for public review in the Site Inspection Report located at:

Feleti Barstow Public Library
PO Box 997687
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

If you have additional information about past activities related to the former **Matafao School**, please contact:

Helene Takemoto, Project Manager
USACE, Honolulu District
Attn: CEPOH-PP-E, Building 230
Fort Shafter, HI 96858-5440

e-mail: FUDS-POH@usace.army.mil, Telephone: (808) 438-6931

ASG RADIO PROGRAM

With: Gov. Togiola Tulafono

On: KSBS FM 92.1 Saturdays @ 7:30 a.m.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On August 9, 1830, Reverend John Williams of the London Missionary Society set sail from Vavau, Tonga, en route to Samoa aboard his two-masted schooner the *Olive Branch* (later renamed the *Messenger of Peace* [*Savali o le Filemu*]), "a craft 20 metres long and with an 8 metre beam," which he built himself with wood from the *tamanu* tree, "using great ingenuity, and with virtually no machinery."

On August 10, 1942, at "MOB 3" (the U.S. Navy's Mobile Hospital No. 3, in Mapusaga, American Samoa), "forty buildings were in use, including the recently finished X-ray facility and a second operating room. The construction pace had slowed, and with the hospital staff now busy caring for the 51 patients. With wounded from the Solomon Islands expected, the need for construction assistance was realized."

On August 10, 1900, Commander Benjamin Franklin Tilley, Commandant, U.S. Naval Station Tutuila, apprised the Assistant Secretary of the Navy of the progress that had been made in establishing a government for the eastern Samoan islands. "I am glad," he wrote, "that I am able to report that everything connected with the new government is progressing in a most satisfactory manner, in all the islands. The natives show much interest in the new methods of government and they are striving to learn and comply with my wishes. The general condition of the people could not be more satisfactory, they are quiet everywhere and are improving their roads, cleaning up the villages and their surroundings and planting their gardens and plantations. Prosperity for the islands seems fully assured."

On August 12, 1926, a very mild form of "simple [to be distinguished from the deadly "Spanish"] influenza" appeared on the north shore of Pago Pago Bay, and spread rapidly until there were "from 4,000 to 5,000 cases on Tutuila." The epidemic was finished at the end of September.

On August 16, 2006, US Army Staff Sergeant Jeffrey S. Loa was killed in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, of injuries suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol. Loa was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 35th Armored Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division, Baumholder, Germany. He was the eighth Samoan soldier killed in Iraq.

On August 16, 2002, funeral services for Governor A.P. Lutali were held at the Samoana High School Gymnasium in Utulei, American Samoa. This was the first state funeral of a governor ever held in American Samoa. Speaking in a pre-funeral interview, Aleni Ripine, who served as Press and Protocol Officer in Lutali's first administration (1985-1989), and as Chief of Staff in the second (1993-1997) said that Lutali was a "rare leader" who "put aside his own desires and wishes to do what the people wanted. He was a doer, he was a leader, living by the motto: nothing is impossible." Governor Tauese Sunia, who served as Director of Education in Lutali's first administration, and as Lieutenant Governor in the second one, delivered a eulogy.

On August 16, 2002, as he concluded his address at Governor A.P. Lutali's funeral, Governor Tauese Sunia renamed two elementary schools in honor of deceased former governors. These were the Aunu'u Elementary School, renamed the A.P. Lutali Elementary School and the Pago Pago Elementary School, renamed as the Uifa'atali Peter Coleman Elementary School. "Tauese's announcement brought applause from the crowd of mourners who appreciated the latest government gesture to honor the two leaders."

American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA)

Plastic Shopping Bags BAN

Plastic Free, The Way To Be... Alternative Plastic Shopping Bag Serial Numbers Approved

AS-EPA would like to remind the public and retailers that only alternative plastic shopping bags that have been specifically approved by the AS-EPA can be distributed in American Samoa. The American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (AS-EPA) has worked closely with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment (MNRE) in Samoa and has reviewed the bags and documents submitted by various retailers concerning the use of "Samoa Biobags." Based upon AS-EPA's review, "Samoa Biobags" are compliant with the new Plastic Shopping Bag Ban (PSBB), A.S.C.A. 25.2034 if they have the following serial numbers:

- CPMNREPTI/0808002
- CPMNREPTI/0710001
- CPMNREATC/0610001
- CPMNREFEE/0211009

Retailers and restaurants may use these alternative shopping bags in their stores; however, they must still comply with all other aspects of the PSBB. This is not an approval for any other plastic bag. All "Samoa Biobags" must have one of the serial numbers listed above printed on the bag to be eligible under this approval. This approval is granted with the understanding that it will expire on the date of expiration of the certification from MNRE in Samoa and may be rescinded sooner if found necessary by AS-EPA.

We also encourage any store that wishes to use alternative plastic bags to pick up instructions and a submission from our office in Pago Plaza to help expedite the approval process.

For more information please call AS-EPA at 633-2304 or visit our website: www.asepa.gov

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

American Samoa Government

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

This public notice is intended to meet two separate procedural requirements

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about August 31, 2011, the Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government will submit a request to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Community Development Block Grant Program Year 2011 funds to undertake a project known as the *Tafuna Industrial Park Improvement Project*, for the purpose of constructing design and construction of four access roads and perimeter fencing in the Senator Daniel Inouye Industrial Park in Tafuna, American Samoa.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Department of Commerce has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Department of Commerce, 2nd floor, A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building, Utulei, American Samoa and may be examined or copied from Monday to Friday, except holidays, from 7:30am to 4:00pm

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, or group, disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Department of Commerce, 2nd floor, A.P. Lutali Executive Office Building, Utulei, American Samoa. All comments received by August 29, 2011 will be considered by the Department of Commerce prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenter should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

(Continued on page 6)

**SHARE IMPORTANT INFORMATION & ACTIVITIES IN YOUR ASG
NEWSLETTER**

“TAPUITEA”

Contact: *Harry Stevens* (harry.stevens@americansamoa.gov) or
Chanel Barber (chanel.barber@doit.as)

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
American Samoa Government

**COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

(continued from page 5)

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government certifies to HUD that Faleseu E. Paopao in his capacity as Department of Commerce Director consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government, to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government certification received by August 26, 2011 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government approved by HUD; (b) the Department of Commerce, American Samoa Government has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the following official and address:

Mr. Mark Chandler, Director

Office of Community Planning and Development

Honolulu Field Office

US Department of Housing and Urban Development

500 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 3A

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-8180

Fax: (808) 522-8194